

## Farm and Garden

### FORCING RHUBARB.

It Can Be Successfully Grown During the Winter Months.

It is possible and practicable for forcing rhubarb to supply himself with rhubarb during the winter months. In many cases it will be found profitable. The essentials for the successful production are good strong roots, at least two years old, and a suitable place for forcing.

The method of handling roots and forcing them to grow is simple and inexpensive. The method of the forcing bed select rhubarb where a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit can be maintained and from which the light can be excluded.



A GOOD STRONG ROOT.

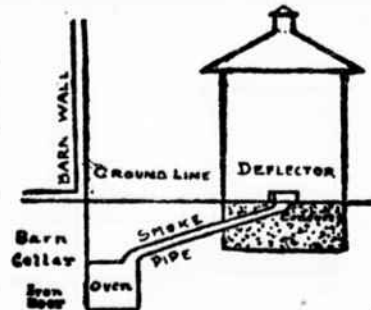
A corner of the house cellar is often the most accessible and desirable. Curtain off the desired amount of room and put in about twelve inches of medium loam. This soil should be in good workable condition and fairly moist. It is essential that this room should be frost proof. The necessary heat for such a place can usually be obtained by use of a lantern or lamp if the amount of room is not large. When it is large some other method of heating will have to be devised. A furnace in the cellar will furnish the necessary heat.

The main requisite is that the roots be thoroughly frozen before being put into the forcing bed. Roots can be thawed or not before planting, as desired. It is not necessary that the roots be thawed when set. They may be put as close together as possible in the bed without injury to their growth if there is sufficient soil present to keep them moist. The amount of soil must be enough to cover the roots. If the plants are in a large bed it is advisable to place them so that there is room enough to walk between the rows. Very little watering is needed, and the growth in darkness induces the production of a large proportion of stalk with small leaves. The rapidity of growth and coloring of the stalk are largely controlled by the temperature. The higher the temperature the more rapid the growth and lighter the color of the stalk, explains New England Homestead.

The plants may be forced any time during the winter months. For commercial production about Jan. 1 seems to be the time for the setting of plants. This brings the crop into the market during the latter part of the month, and a continual supply is maintained until the outdoor crop comes into the market in April.

### A Smokehouse.

The diagram shows the plan of a smokehouse found satisfactory by one of our readers. In this case the smoke oven connects with the barn cellar, but it could be readily built out of doors. The oven shown in cut is three feet square, with sheet iron door. The pipe leading from it to the smokehouse



PLAN OF SMOKEHOUSE.

Is ten inch glazed tile, with an elbow at each end. Over the end of the pipe in the floor of the house is a deflector, a flat square stone laid on four pieces of brick, which causes the smoke to fill all parts of the house. This arrangement is much superior to the old plan of building a fire in the smokehouse, as it supplies cool smoke and does away with the danger of fire, says Rural New Yorker.

### Forest Fires.

In many localities there still exists an idea that burning over the forest floor is not injurious, but even beneficial. It is difficult to imagine upon what basis this idea rests, for certainly anything which will destroy the rich accumulation of leaf mold, the tender seedlings and young trees as a surface or ground fire will do cannot fail to seriously retard the natural reproduction of the forest.—H. D. House.

### Truck in Florida.

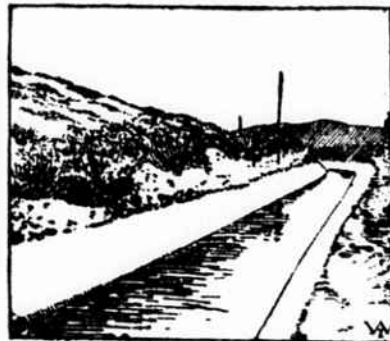
Winter is a glorious time in Dade county, Fla., says a writer in Home and Farm. Berries ripen from January to June. We often gather fine ripe tomatoes in December, and our September planted Irish potatoes are ready for use from Christmas on.

## Farm and Garden

### DITCH LININGS.

A Glimpse at Some of Their Phases in Southern California.

A dependable water supply that can be drawn upon whenever needed is one of the ideal conditions of agriculture and almost a necessity to the truck farmers. This consideration explains the undoubted interest in irrigation schemes and their progress to some extent, at least, in humid regions. One of the irrigator's problems everywhere is the waste water which sinks into the soil from ditches and reservoirs. The loss sometimes amounts to more than half the total flow. The water which escapes is often worse



JURUPA CANAL.

[Lined with cement mortar.]

than wasted. It collects in the lower lands, fills the soil, drowns the roots of trees and plants, brings alkali to the surface in some regions and is very generally a prolific breeding place for mosquitoes.

On large storage works linings of cement, concrete or asphaltum may be employed without the expense being prohibitive. But on lateral ditches and small storage basins simpler and cheaper methods of making the surface impervious to water, such as can be carried out by farmers or unskilled laborers, must be found. Muddy water soon silts up muddy ditches, but where water is clear, as from wells or reservoirs, seepage losses are likely to be permanent, and some sort of lining to stop this becomes an important matter.

Southern California affords one of the great fields for studying irrigation. B. A. Etchevery of the State university, tracing the progress there, says that canals were first paved with river boulders or cobblestones. This paving was then improved upon by paying and cementing. Plastering with cement mortar from one-half to one inch thick and the use of concrete for linings from three to six inches thick were introduced afterward. The use of steel or cement pipes has become much in favor in southern California. Where the volume of water to distribute is not large they have to a great extent replaced the smaller open ditch.

The advantage of lining a canal is not alone the decrease in seepage. Other factors should be considered. First, the prevention of growth of vegetation is an important item and is quite an expense when in most cases the ditch or lateral must be cleaned out several times during an irrigation season; second, the resistance to scouring, on which depends the velocity which the water can be given, and, third, the prevention of squirrels and gophers from burrowing into the banks and bottoms of ditches.

The cement mortar lining is reported by Professor Etchevery to be probably used more extensively in southern California than all the other methods combined. It has proved very efficient, and its cost is small. The Jurupa canal, in the vicinity of Riverside, as shown in the cut, is lined in this manner, the lining, however, being only one-quarter to one-half inch thick.



UNLINED CANAL.

[Showing vegetation.]

Thin plaster lining is subject to rupture from burrowing animals and from storm water washing out some of the back filling. It is probable that this kind of lining would not resist the climate of a country subject to very cold weather.

Heavy road oil has been experimented with and found very effective in preventing growth of aquatic plants. Puddling with clay is said to be a good preventive of seepage, but it does not hinder vegetation.

### Soil Sterilization.

The results of tests at the Vermont experiment station show that soil sterilization is an effective means of preventing or controlling some of the worst enemies of greenhouse plants. Professor Stuart considers it "one of the most important of the more recent developments of greenhouse technique" and believes that "on account of the severe injury so frequently caused by nematodes to tomatoes and cucumbers when grown under glass the sterilization of greenhouse soil has become almost a necessity when the soil is thus infected."

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"Bloodline Liver Pills" act gently, yet thoroughly upon the bowels, liver, stomach and digestive organs. The pills, in old and chronic cases of constipation and indigestion, act at once, without griping, nor do they leave any unpleasant after-effects, nor form a constant habit of purging, produced by other cathartic remedies. "Bloodline Liver Pills" restore the deranged and torpid liver to its normal condition and healthful action. Remove and prevent constipation by securing a natural and regular operation of the bowels, and relieve those unpleasant symptoms which attend a diseased or morbid condition of the liver, stomach and bowels. To assist in attaining this end, the following suggestions are offered.

REMARKS. Everyone who uses pills for their action on the liver, should know that large doses rarely prove as satisfactory as small ones. Large doses simply purge and pass out of the system, usually leaving the bowels constipated, and seldom removing the cause of the trouble, or improve the general health. On the other hand, small doses develop the alternative effect of the medicine, do not irritate or constipate the bowels, but gently stimulate the liver and prevent the accumulation of bile by directing its flow into the proper channels. Therefore it is advisable to commence by taking not over one or two pills at bedtime and increase dose as necessary.

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That the use of enamel kitchen ware causes cancer is a view held by some eminent medical authorities. Dr. William H. Diefenbach of New York, in a paper entitled "Observations on the Etiology of Cancer," read before the Bureau of Sanitary Science and Public Health during the session of the International Homeopathic Congress at Atlantic City, discussed this subject.

According to a special dispatch to the Philadelphia North American, Dr. Diefenbach advanced the argument that chipping

of the hard-coated dishes used in preparation of meals allowed minute but dangerous particles of foreign matter to become mixed with the food, these being taken into the stomach, where the cancerous growth is caused by abrasions which they make in the walls of the organ.

"1892" Pure Aluminum Ware saves doctors' bills. It enables you to bake bread, pies, pan cakes, etc., without grease, which is the great cause of dyspepsia and indigestion. Aluminum griddles require no grease; hence are smokeless and odorless.

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